

Honorable Carolyn McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative McCarthy:

This is in response to your letter of April 5, 2002, concerning the Jackson Steel Superfund site and the Tutor Time day care facility, located in Mineola, New York. As you know, we have been in frequent contact with your staff over the past several months and have endeavored to provide information as it becomes available. Outlined below is the status of the items that have been requested.

The requested time line for the Jackson Steel site was provided to your staff on April 10, 2002. On April 16 and 17, 2002, the results from the February 2002 air sampling at the Tutor Time facility were provided to your staff.

In your letter, you asked about the contents of the drums and containers that were located inside the building on the Jackson Steel site. In March 2001, EPA collected samples to determine whether the contents of the five drums and one container¹ located within the building on the Jackson Steel site showed hazardous waste characteristics, namely, toxicity, ignitability, corrosivity, or reactivity. One of the drums was found to have ignitable contents. In February 2002, 5 drums and one container² were sampled to determine what they contained (the container which contained the virgin cleaning product was removed from the building while business was still being conducted on the site). While we have the laboratory results from the inorganic analyses (the data are enclosed), we are waiting for the organic laboratory results from these drums. These results will be provided to you once they become available. The five drums were removed from the site on March 21, 2002; the container, which was empty (the sampling effort removed all of its contents), was left on-site.

In February, EPA collected indoor air, tap water, and playground soil and wood chip samples. In addition, EPA collected soil gas samples from under the parking lot and its environs. The results from these sampling efforts will be provided to you once the data become available.

As part of the remedial investigation at the Jackson Steel site, EPA collected 95 soil samples from 32 locations at depths ranging from 0-150 feet (see the enclosed map for the sample locations). The samples were analyzed for more than 160 organic and inorganic compounds. We have just recently received the data. While more than 1,500 pieces of data still need be tabulated, organized, and interpreted, we can share with you some observations from a cursory review of the soil data. The highest tetrachloroethylene (PCE) concentrations were detected at a depth of 0-1 feet at locations SB-14 and SS-5 (see the figure), at 19 mg/kg and 14 mg/kg, respectively. The highest values of other selected volatile organic compounds were detected in the dry wells under the parking lot (DW2 and DW3). These compounds and the associated highest concentrations are trichloroethylene (5.8 mg/kg), benzene (5.7 mg/kg), toluene (5.5 mg/kg), xylene (4.6 mg/kg), chlorobenzene (5.7 mg/kg), and 1,2-dichloroethene (12 mg/kg)

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EPA also collected 11 groundwater samples during the drilling of an on-site well (MW-5, located at the southwest corner of the site) at 10-foot intervals in order to locate the contaminated zones and to determine the depth of the well screen installation. In the groundwater samples from this well, the highest concentration of PCE found was 38 micrograms per liter at a depth of 50-55 feet. Additional groundwater sampling will be conducted in late May to mid-June 2002, following the completion of well installation.

In your letter, you asked when the next meeting with the parents would be held, a meeting with the citizens' group In Defense of Our Children has been scheduled for April 25, 2002. It is anticipated that a follow up meeting with the parents will be held in early May 2002.

I appreciate your personal interest in this site and look forward to continuing to work with you on the challenges that remain. If you have further questions please contact me or have your staff contact Patricia Carr, Acting Chief, Intergovernmental Affairs Branch, at (212) 637-3657.

Sincerely,

Jane M. Kenny
Regional Administrator

Enclosures

- 1 While there were two containers in the building, one was a new, unopened container of a cleaning product. This container was not sampled.
- 2 One drum contained 2 inches of liquid, 2 drums contained cutting oil, one drum contained unknown liquid, and one drum contained floor sweepings. The container contained a small amount of liquid.